AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 5, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1253

Introduced by Assembly Member Fuller

February 27, 2009

An act to amend Sections 711.4, 2363, 2764, 7361, 7856, 8370, 8371, 8670, 8685.5, 8685.6, 8685.7, 8756, and 15301 of, to add Section 2305 to, and to repeal Section 2359 of, the Fish and Game Code, and to amend Section 5841.5 of the Public Resources Code, relating to fish. An act relating to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1253, as amended, Fuller. Striped bass. Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The California Bay-Delta Authority Act establishes in the Natural Resources Agency the California Bay-Delta Authority. The act requires the authority and the implementing agencies to carry out programs, projects, and activities necessary to implement the Bay-Delta Program, defined to mean those projects, programs, commitments, and other actions that address the goals and objectives of the CALFED Bay-Delta Programmatic Record of Decision, dated August 28, 2000, or as it may be amended.

The act requires the authority to establish a board of independent scientists, known as the Independent Science Board, to advise and make recommendations to the authority and the Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee, as appropriate, on the science relative to implementation of all program elements.

This bill would require the board to conduct an independent scientific review of existing literature and studies on fish predation in the AB 1253 -2-

Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and to prepare and submit to the Legislature and the Governor a report, including a recommendation as to whether additional studies are needed, and, if so, additional recommendations for the design and scope of those studies and an estimate of the total costs for the studies.

Existing law regulating fishing imposes various restrictions on the take, transport, and sale of specified fish, including striped bass.

Existing law, until January 1, 2010, requires the funds generated by the imposition of a Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp or validation to be deposited in a separate account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund, to be used solely for the long term, sustainable benefit of the primary Bay-Delta sport fisheries, as specified, including the striped bass fishery.

This bill would prohibit a person from possessing, importing, shipping, or transporting in the state, or placing, planting, or causing to be placed or planted in any water within the state, striped bass. The bill would subject any person who violates that prohibition, or who resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with its implementation, to a civil penalty of not less than \$500 and not more than \$10,000. The bill would require the Department of Fish and Game to adopt regulations to carry out those provisions. The bill would delete striped bass from various existing provisions restricting the take, transport, and sale of specified fish. The bill would delete the striped bass fishery from the fisheries for which Bay-Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp revenues are to be used.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Independent Science Board shall conduct 2 an independent scientific review of existing literature and studies 3 on fish predation in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, for the purpose of evaluating whether additional studies are needed on 5 the effects of predation on species listed as threatened or 6 endangered under the state or federal endangered species acts, 7 and to determine whether predator species are adversely affecting, at a population level, native salmonids or other indigenous pelagic 9 species in the Delta, and, if so, whether policy and operational 10 changes are needed in the Delta to reduce predation effects. The review shall also include a review of existing studies on fish

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salvage methods and other mitigation protocols at state and federal pumping facilities and recommendations for changes in methodologies to improve survival.

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- (b) After completing the review required by subdivision (a), the Independent Science Board shall prepare and submit to the Legislature and the Governor a report that includes the following:
 - (1) A recommendation on whether additional studies are needed.
- (2) If the Independent Science Board recommends additional studies, recommendations for the design and scope of those studies and an estimate of the total costs for the studies.
- SECTION 1. (a) Fish of the genus Morone (striped bass) are a harmful and highly invasive species that is not native to this state.
- (b) Striped bass, including hybrid species commonly referred to as sunshine bass, palmetto bass, wiper, Virginia bass, Maryland bass, and paradise bass, are native to the eastern coast of the United States, and are typically found from Florida to the St. Lawrence Seaway. Striped bass were intentionally introduced to California in 1879 from the Navesink River in New Jersey.
- (c) Striped bass are common in the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, and are estimated to have a population that has fluctuated from a low of 600,000 to a high of 3,000,000.
- (d) Striped bass are known to prey upon and consume a variety of native fish species valued by the people of this state that are protected under the state and federal endangered species acts, including Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, and delta smelt.
- (e) The predation habits and diet of striped bass are contributing to the decline and extirpation of native fish species populations from the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.
- (f) In order to protect and preserve the existing populations of native fish species that live in and migrate through the San Francisco Bay and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, it is the intent of the Legislature to establish an effective program to prevent additional striped bass from entering the state, to discourage the promotion of the San Francisco Bay-Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta as a striped bass sport fishery, to immediately end any existing program for the enhancement, expansion, or improvement of striped bass populations and their habitat, and to eliminate any

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and all legal restrictions regarding the size or number of striped
 bass that may be taken, and the season or location in which striped
 bass may be taken, pursuant to a valid California fishing license.

SEC. 2. Section 711.4 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

- 711.4. (a) The department shall impose and collect a filing fee in the amount prescribed in subdivision (d) to defray the costs of managing and protecting fish and wildlife trust resources, including, but not limited to, consulting with other public agencies, reviewing environmental documents, recommending mitigation measures, developing monitoring requirements for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 (commencing with Section 21000) of the Public Resources Code), consulting pursuant to Section 21104.2 of the Public Resources Code, and other activities protecting those trust resources identified in the review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
- (b) The filing fees shall be proportional to the cost incurred by the department and shall be annually reviewed and adjustments recommended to the Legislature in an amount necessary to pay the full costs of department programs as specified. The department shall annually adjust the fees pursuant to Section 713.
- (c) (1) All project applicants and public agencies subject to the California Environmental Quality Act shall pay a filing fee for each proposed project, as specified in subdivision (d).
- (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a filing fee shall not be paid pursuant to this section if any of the following conditions exist:
 - (A) The project has no effect on fish and wildlife.
 - (B) The project is being undertaken by the department.
- (C) The project costs are payable by the department from any of the following sources that are held by the department:
- (i) The Public Resources Account in the Cigarette and Tobacco Products Surtax Fund.
- (ii) The California Wildlife, Coastal, and Park Land Conservation Fund of 1988.
 - (iii) The Habitat Conservation Fund.
- 36 (iv) The Fisheries Restoration Account in the Fish and Game
 37 Preservation Fund.
- 38 (v) The Commercial Salmon Stamp Account in the Fish and 39 Game Preservation Fund.
 - (vi) The California Ocean Resource Enhancement Account.

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(D) The project is implemented by the department through a contract with either a nonprofit entity or a local government agency.

- (3) Filing fees shall be paid at the time and in the amount specified in subdivision (d). Notwithstanding Sections 21080.5 and 21081 of the Public Resources Code, a project shall not be operative, vested, or final, and local government permits for the project shall not be valid, until the filing fees required pursuant to this section are paid.
 - (d) The fees shall be in the following amounts:
- (1) For a project that is statutorily or categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act, including those certified regulatory programs that incorporate statutory and categorical exemptions, a filing fee shall not be paid.
- (2) For a project for which a negative declaration is prepared pursuant to subdivision (c) of Section 21080 of the Public Resources Code, the filing fee is one thousand eight hundred dollars (\$1,800). A local agency collecting the filing fee shall remit the fee to the county clerk at the time of filing a notice of determination pursuant to Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code. A state agency collecting the filing fee shall remit the fee to the Office of Planning and Research at the time of filing a notice of determination pursuant to Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.
- (3) For a project with an environmental impact report prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, the filing fee is two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). A local agency collecting the filing fee shall remit the fee to the county clerk at the time of filing a notice of determination pursuant to Section 21152 of the Public Resources Code. A state agency collecting the filing fee shall remit the fee to the Office of Planning and Research at the time of filing a notice of determination pursuant to Section 21108 of the Public Resources Code.
- (4) For a project that is subject to a certified regulatory program pursuant to Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code, the filing fee is eight hundred fifty dollars (\$850). The filing fee shall be paid to the department before the filing of the notice of determination pursuant to Section 21080.5 of the Public Resources Code.

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(e) The county clerk may charge a documentary handling fee of fifty dollars (\$50) per filing in addition to the filing fee specified in subdivision (d).

- (1) The county clerk of each county and the Office of Planning and Research shall maintain a record, both electronic and in paper, of all environmental documents received. The record shall include, for each environmental document received, the name of each applicant or lead agency, the document filing number, the project name as approved by the lead agency, and the filing date. The record shall be made available for examination or audit by authorized personnel of the department during normal business hours.
- (2) The filing fee imposed and collected pursuant to subdivision (d) shall be remitted monthly to the department within 30 days after the end of each month. The remittance shall be accompanied with the information required pursuant to paragraph (1). The amount of fees due shall be reported on forms prescribed and provided by the department.
- (3) The department shall assess a penalty of 10 percent of the amount of fees due for a failure to remit the amount payable when due. The department may pursue collection of delinquent fees through the Controller's office pursuant to Section 12419.5 of the Government Code.
- (f) Notwithstanding Section 12000, failure to pay the fee under subdivision (d) is not a misdemeanor. All unpaid fees are a statutory assessment subject to collection under procedures as provided in the Revenue and Taxation Code.
- (g) Only one filing fee shall be paid for each project unless the project is tiered or phased, or separate environmental documents are required.
- (h) This section does not preclude or modify the duty of the department to recommend, require, permit, or engage in mitigation activities pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act.
- (i) The permit process of the California Coastal Commission, as certified by the Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency, is exempt from the payment of the filing fees prescribed by paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) insofar as the permits are issued under any of the following regulations:
- (1) Subchapter 4 (commencing with Section 13136) of Chapter 5 of Division 5.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

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(2) Subchapter 1 (commencing with Section 13200), Subchapter 3 (commencing with Section 13213), Subchapter 3.5 (commencing with Section 13214), Subchapter 4 (commencing with Section 13215), Subchapter 4.5 (commencing with Section 13238), Subchapter 5 (commencing with Section 13240), Subchapter 6 (commencing with Section 13250), and Subchapter 8 (commencing with Section 13255.0) of Chapter 6 of Division 5.5 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

SEC. 3. Section 2305 is added to the Fish and Game Code, to read:

- 2305. (a) Except as authorized by the department, a person shall not possess, import, ship, or transport in the state, or place, plant, or cause to be placed or planted in any water within the state, striped bass.
- (b) (1) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person who violates this section, or any order or regulation adopted pursuant to this section, or who resists, delays, obstructs, or interferes with the implementation of this section, is subject to a civil penalty of not less than five hundred dollars (\$500) and not more than ten-thousand dollars (\$10,000). The department may imposed this civil penalty administratively.
- (2) A penalty shall not be imposed pursuant to paragraph (1) unless the department has adopted regulations specifying the amount of the penalty and the procedure for imposing and appealing the penalty.
- (c) The department shall adopt regulations to carry out this section.
- SEC. 4. Section 2359 of the Fish and Game Code is repealed. SEC. 5. Section 2363 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
- 2363. Sturgeon or shad or parts of those fish legally taken in another state that permits the sale of that fish, may be imported into the state under regulations of the commission. Before the commission adopts any regulation pursuant to this section, a public hearing shall be held in the San Francisco or Sacramento area.
- SEC. 6. Section 2764 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
- 2764. The director shall consult with other responsible state agencies and appropriate fishery advisory committees, including, but not limited to, the Advisory Committee on Salmon and

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Steelhead Trout, in developing projects to be funded pursuant to
 Section 2762.

- SEC. 7. Section 7361 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 7361. (a) Fees received by the department pursuant to Section 7360 shall be deposited in a separate account in the Fish and Game Preservation Fund.
 - (b) The department shall expend the funds in that account for the long-term, sustainable benefit of the primary Bay-Delta sport fisheries, including, but not limited to, sturgeon, black bass, halibut, salmon, surf perch, steelhead trout, and American shad. Funds shall be expended to benefit sport fish populations, sport fishing opportunities, and anglers within the geographic parameters established in Section 7360, and consistent with the requirements of the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.) and the California Endangered Species Act (Chapter 1.5 (commencing with Section 2050) of Division 3, the ecosystem restoration component of the CALFED Programmatic Record of Decision dated August 28, 2000, and applicable commission policies.
 - (e) It is the intent of the Legislature that these funds be used to augment, not replace, funding that would otherwise be allocated to Bay-Delta sport fisheries from the sale of fishing licenses, the California Bay-Delta Authority, or other federal, state, or local funding sources.
 - (d) It is the intent of the Legislature that none of the funds received by the department pursuant to Section 7360 be used to benefit a striped bass fishery, including striped bass populations and habitat.
- 30 SEC. 8. Section 7856 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 7856. Notwithstanding any other provision of this division, except as provided in subdivision (f) and except when prohibited by federal law, fish may be prepared for human consumption aboard a commercial fishing vessel only under the following conditions:
 - (a) The fish are taken under all existing commercial fishing laws and regulations and, except as provided in subdivision (f), the fish is of a species and size that can be lawfully taken under sportfishing

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regulations in the area where taken and are taken incidental to normal commercial fishing operations.

- (b) The fish is separated from other fish and stored with other foodstuff for consumption by the crew and passengers aboard the vessel.
- (c) The fish, or parts thereof, shall not be bought, sold, offered for sale, transferred to any other person, landed, brought ashore, or used for any purpose except for consumption by the crew and passengers.
- (d) (1) All fish shall be maintained in such a condition that the species can be determined, and the size or weight can be determined if a size or weight limit applies, until the fish is prepared for immediate consumption.
- (2) If the fish is filleted, a patch of skin shall be retained on each fillet as prescribed by the commission in the sportfishing regulations until the fish is prepared for immediate consumption.
- (3) Fillets from fish possessed under sportfishing regulations shall be of the minimum length prescribed by commission regulations.
- (e) No fish which may be possessed under sportfishing regulations may be possessed in excess of the sport bag limit for each crew member and passenger on board the vessel.
- (f) Notwithstanding other provisions of this section, kelp bass, sand bass, spotted bass, yellowfin croaker, spotfin croaker, California corbina, and marlin, shall not be possessed aboard a commercial fishing vessel while that vessel is on a commercial fishing trip. Lobster, salmon, or abalone shall not be possessed aboard a commercial fishing vessel while that vessel is on a commercial fishing trip for preparation for human consumption pursuant to this section unless that lobster, salmon, or abalone is taken and possessed in compliance with all applicable laws pertaining to commercial fishing methods of take, licenses, permits, and size limits. Sturgeon shall not be possessed aboard a commercial fishing vessel. No person shall take or possess any fish on a commercial fishing vessel under a sportfishing license while that vessel is engaged in a commercial fishing activity, including going to or from an area where fish are taken for commercial purposes.
- SEC. 9. Section 8370 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:

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 8370. (a) Any salmon or sturgeon, if alive, that is taken in any type of net in any district shall be immediately liberated from the net by the fishermen and immediately returned to the water without further harm.

- (b) Any salmon or sturgeon that is taken in any type of nets in any district shall be removed from the net by the fisherman and immediately returned to the water, regardless of the condition of the fish.
- (c) The holder of a commercial fishing license shall not have in his or her possession, except when releasing fish from the net, any salmon or sturgeon, whether dead or alive, at any time when conducting netting operations or when going to or from those operations.
- (d) Fish returned to the water in accordance with this section is not deterioration, waste, or spoilage of fish for purposes of Section 7704.
- 17 SEC. 10. Section 8371 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 8371. Salmon, or parts thereof, may be sold or offered for sale only under the following conditions:
 - (a) If the salmon, or parts thereof, is taken legally in another state that permits the sale of salmon, and is lawfully imported consistent with Section 2361, the salmon, or parts thereof, may be possessed, sold, or purchased.
 - (b) If the salmon, or parts thereof, is taken in accordance with Article 4 (commencing with Section 8210.2), the salmon, or parts thereof, may be possessed, sold, or purchased.
 - SEC. 11. Section 8670 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 8670. It is unlawful for any person to use, operate, or assist in using or operating any net to take salmon, steelhead, sturgeon, or shad for commercial purposes in any of the tidal waters lying upstream from the Carquinez Bridge, or to possess on any boat in these waters any net the use of which is illegal in those waters.
- 35 SEC. 12. Section 8685.5 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
- 37 8685.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, gill nets shall not be used to take salmon or steelhead.
- 39 SEC. 13. Section 8685.6 of the Fish and Game Code is 40 amended to read:

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8685.6. It is unlawful to sell or possess for sale any salmonor steelhead that were taken in California waters by the use of a gill net.

- SEC. 14. Section 8685.7 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 8685.7. (a) It is unlawful for any person to knowingly purchase any salmon or steelhead that were taken in California waters by the use of a gill net.
 - (b) For the purpose of this section, "person" includes a broker who purchases salmon or steelhead that were unlawfully taken by gill net for the purpose of reselling those fish.
- SEC. 15. Section 8756 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 8756. Salmon, steelhead, or shad shall not be taken with purse or round haul nets.
 - SEC. 16. Section 15301 of the Fish and Game Code is amended to read:
 - 15301. (a) The department may sell wild aquatic plants or animals, except rare, endangered, or fully protected species, for aquaculture use at a price approximating the administrative cost to the department for the collection or sale of the plants or animals. The commission shall set this price.
 - (b) Aquatic plants and animals may be collected by a registered aquaculturist only with the written approval of the department. The department may specify the time, place, and manner of collection and may collect a fee from the aquaculturist in an amount sufficient to cover the cost of processing the approval.
 - (c) Notwithstanding subdivision (a), the fee for collecting sturgeon broodstock shall be five hundred dollars (\$500).
 - SEC. 17. Section 5841.5 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:
 - 5841.5. (a) The American River Parkway and its environs contribute to the quality of life within the City of Sacramento and the County of Sacramento, enhance the image of the city and the county as desirable places to live, provide for the public safety and welfare of the community, and thereby contribute to the economic well-being of the community.
 - (b) The lower American River serves as a floodway channel, protecting the community from runoff, rainfall, and snowmelt.

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(c) The lower American River sustains a myriad of fish populations, including steelhead, king salmon, shad, and other fish and wildlife populations, which in turn annually support millions of recreation user-days and commercial, scientific, and educational uses and benefits.

- (d) The recreation capacity of the American River Parkway is immense, including such diverse activities as hiking, bieveling, picnicking, birding, horseback riding, canoeing, kayaking, rafting, sailing, and power cruising.
- (e) It is essential that the function of the lower American River and its environs, as a regional open-space resource within the center of the City of Sacramento and County of Sacramento, be supported and maintained.
- (f) Actions undertaken by a state agency can drastically affect the American River Parkway and negate planning steps taken by appropriate local agencies.
- (g) Adoption of the American River Parkway Plan by the State 18 of California provides necessary recognition so that local planning 19 efforts are eligible to receive planning grants through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, technical staff assistance through 20 the National Park Service, and financial assistance through the 22 Soil Conservation Service's Cooperative River Basin Planning 23 Program.